

News

Macomb County
Office of Public Affairs



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MOUNT CLEMENS EVENT FOCUSES ON FETAL ALCOHOL DISORDERS

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The Macomb County Fetal Alcohol Resource and Support Coalition (MCFARES), in cooperation with the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and the Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse, is hosting an educational program to raise awareness of the effects of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

It is estimated that one out of every 100 infants in Macomb County is born with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Prenatal exposure to alcohol can cause a range of lifelong problems ranging from mental retardation to difficulty getting along with others.

“This is a very serious issue that demands our attention,” said Nancy White, chair of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. “I hope this event will show people how needless and preventable this problem is and give them an understanding of the consequences involved.”

At its last board meeting, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners recognized Sept. 9 as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day. The day, also recognized internationally, promotes a greater understanding of the dangers involved in mixing alcohol with pregnancy.

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The 45-minute program will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9, at the Mount Clemens clock on Main Street. Speakers will include White, the Circuit Court Chief Judge Antonio Viviano, Dr. Kevin Lokar, medical director of the Macomb County Health Department and Charisse Cossu-Kowalski, the mother of a child with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and the chair of MCFARES.

The MCFARES event is the only observance of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day in the metro Detroit area.

For more information, visit

<http://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/pressreleases/sg02222005.html> or www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fas.

About Macomb County

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state's fastest rates of growth. Its 825,000 residents make it Michigan's third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan's second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

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